

REMARKS

The Decision on Appeal decide July 24, 2007 has been received and reviewed. Claims 1-27 are in the case. Claims 1-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

By this paper, claims 1, 10, 12, 19, and 21-27 have been amended and claims 2, 11, and 20 have been canceled. For the reasons set forth below, claims 1, 3-10, 12-19, and 21-27 are believed to be in condition for immediate allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 1, 3-10, 12-19, and 21-27 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 1, 3-10, 12-19, and 21-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Nakamura. "A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros., Inc. v. Union Oil Co.*, 814 F.2d 628, 631 (Fed. Cir. 1987); *see also* MPEP §2131. Applicant does not find in Nakamura each and every element of the newly amended claims. Accordingly, Applicant asserts that the anticipation rejection based on Nakamura should be withdrawn.

For example, claims 1, 3-10, and 12-18 now require a reporting module configured to query a network infrastructure device selected from the group consisting of a switch, router, and hub. Switch, router, and hub are terms of art. Applicant asserts that "outlet 101" of Nakamura cannot properly be considered to be a switch, router, or hub.

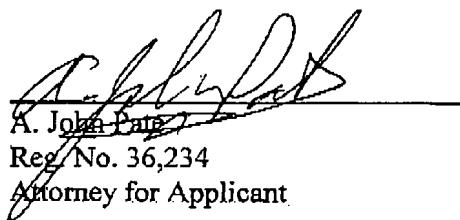
Furthermore, claims 1, 3-10, and 12-18 now also require that the end point connection information comprise connection table information identifying a port through which the first network device connects to the network infrastructure device. Again, connection table is a term of art. Applicant asserts that a "room index" stored with in "outlet 101" of Nakamura cannot properly be considered to be a connection table.

Meanwhile, claims 19 and 21-27 now require identifying a first device of the plurality of devices configured to automatically collect, store, and update connection table information mapping interconnectivity between the plurality of devices. Moreover, those claims require querying that first device to obtain a portion of the connection table information identifying a port. While previous Office Actions has asserted that "outlet 101" of Nakamura may be considered a network infrastructure device, Applicant does not find that outlet 101 automatically collects, stores, and updates connection table information including port identifications. Rather, Applicant finds that outlet 101 of Nakamura is not automated. For that reason, a room index can be "written in advance when the outlet 101 is installed...." and "...never changed." See Nakamura column 17, lines 61-65.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requested reconsideration of claims 1, 3-10, 12-19, and 21-27. In the event that the examiner finds any remaining impediment to the prompt allowance of any of these claims, which could be clarified in a telephone conference, the examiner is respectfully urged to initiate the same with the undersigned.

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Respectfully submitted,

  
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